

GARY C. PETERS, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE  
MAGGIE HASSAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
KYRSTEN SINEMA, ARIZONA  
JACKY ROSEN, NEVADA  
ALEX PADILLA, CALIFORNIA  
JON OSSOFF, GEORGIA

ROB PORTMAN, OHIO  
RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN  
RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY  
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA  
MITT ROMNEY, UTAH  
RICK SCOTT, FLORIDA  
JOSH HAWLEY, MISSOURI

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

DAVID M. WEINBERG, STAFF DIRECTOR  
PAMELA THIESSEN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
LAURA W. KILBRIDE, CHIEF CLERK

December 7, 2021

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20268

Dear Commissioners:

I write to express concerns about the transfer of educational bound printed matter (BPM) from the market-dominant product category to the competitive product category. While it is essential for the Postal Service to move toward a sounder financial footing, a price increase on these educational mailings would do little to improve the Postal Service's finances and would affect mail with educational value. I request that the Postal Regulatory Commission carefully consider the Postal Service's request to transfer BPM to the competitive category and not support the reclassification of educational materials sent to pre-K-12 schools.

The Postal Service noted, in response to congressional requests for information, that it does not have a clear understanding of how much revenue this change would raise. The Postal Service also noted that educational materials sent to pre-K-12 schools comprise only approximately 1.5% of all bound printed matter sent by consumers.<sup>1</sup>

The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act requires the Postal Regulatory Commission to consider "the educational, cultural, scientific, and informational value to the recipient of mail matter" in establishing rates and classes.<sup>2</sup> The educational nature of some mailed matter sent as BPM, such as reading-list information booklets, warrants its exclusion from reclassification. Such resources help give teachers and students access to a broad array of free and affordable books, as well as other literary resources.

In addition, the Postal Service has primary control over the shipment of these materials. Educational publishers ship reading-list information booklets in shrink-wrapped bundles for each school in compliance with BPM specifications. No mailer other than the Postal Service can suitably process these bundles. The Postal Service has shared in previous communications that "a price increase is necessary regardless of whether the product remains in the market-dominant category or moves to the competitive category," however, the concern remains that

---

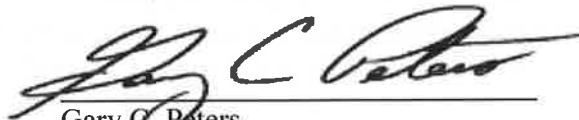
<sup>1</sup> Letter from Sheila T. Meyers, Government Liaison, United States Postal Service, to Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Committee on Oversight and Reform (June 24, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-435. (39 USC 3622 (c)(11))

reclassification of all BPM would unnecessarily impose price increases on educational mailings, potentially reducing many children's access to educational materials.<sup>3</sup>

There is bipartisan, bicameral concern that the proposed change could harm learning opportunities for all elementary, middle, and high school students, including economically disadvantaged students who are more likely to have experienced interruptions in learning as a result of the pandemic. In addition, given the lack of information on the impact this change would have on revenue, this reclassification may have limited benefit. It is critical that any substantial change to BPM pricing is carefully and thoughtfully reviewed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary Q. Peters", written over a horizontal line.

Gary Q. Peters  
Chairman

---

<sup>3</sup> Letter from Sheila T. Meyers, Government Liaison, United States Postal Service to Rep. Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight and Reform (Jan. 13, 2021).